Frequency of Chennai Rajdhani Express

3237. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bi-weekly Chennai Rajdhani Express is having good occupancy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase its frequency, from the existing bi-weekly to six days a week; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the commuting time to around 24 hours, to make it more attractive and popular with the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The average class-wise occupancy of Train No. 2433 Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express and 2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express during the period April to September 2002 is as under:-

TrainNo.	IAC	2AC	3AC
2433	34%	71%	79%
2434	43%	81%	80%

(b) Presently, 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express runs twice a week. There are 5 more pairs of Express trains between Chennai and Delhi which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic between the two stations. Increase in frequency of 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express is not feasible due to operational constraints and for the lack of commercial justification.

(c) At present 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express takes approximately 28 hours and 30 minutes between Delhi and Chennai, running at an average speed of approximately 77 Kilometer per Hour. Further reduction in its travelling time is not feasible due to operational constraints.

Payment of cess by Konkan Railway

3238. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Konkan Railway has not paid Rs. 1.75 crores as N.A. Cess (Tax) to the Collector, inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and